

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-02
PRS-01 PM-04 SSM-05 H-02 SSO-00 /067 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. CULLUMS
NEA/INS - MR. KUX
NEA/PAB - MR. LANDE
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----260055Z 116558 /63

O 252308Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USCINCEUR

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 25

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 25, 1977:

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT IN THE WASHINGTON POST TODAY ABOUT
CONTACTING THE AMERICAN AND PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT CONCERNING
THE NON-PROLIFERATION. CAN YOU SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

A. WELL, I HAVE SEEN THE STORY TO WHICH YOU REFER. ABOUT
ALL I CAN SAY IS WE HAVE BEEN EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH THE
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PAKISTANIS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS ON THE SUBJECT. I
CAN'T GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS BEING KEPT
INFORMED OF THOSE TALKS?

A. I DON'T KNOW. THAT IS ALL I HAVE ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY OF STATE SEND A LETTER TO CAPITOL HILL
IN WHICH IT HAD REPORTED HE HAS SIGNIFICANTLY WEAKENED THE
ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION WHICH IS NOW BEFORE CONGRESS?

A. YOU ARE REFERRING, I BELIEVE, TO THE STORY IN THE NEW
YORK TIMES TODAY; IS THAT RIGHT?

Q. YES.

A. LET ME MAKE ONE GENERAL OBSERVATION, NAMELY TO
THE EFFECT THAT I THINK THE STORY IS INACCURATE ON A

NUMBER OF COUNTS. THE SECRETARY WROTE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON MARCH 22ND SUGGESTING VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO BILLS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED ON THE BOYCOTT QUESTION. THE SUGGESTIONS IN THE SECRETARY'S LETTER ARE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE TWO COMMITTEES ON FEBRUARY 28TH AND MARCH 1ST.

NOW, AT THAT TIME HE LAID OUT A NUMBER OF PRINCIPLES WHICH IN OUR VIEW SHOULD GUIDE OUR APPROACH TO BOYCOTT LEGISLATION THAT IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THAT IS MY FIRST POINT.

THE SECOND WOULD BE THAT -- AGAIN ADDRESSING THE THRUST OF THE TIMES ARTICLE -- THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SECRETARY'S LETTER OF MARCH 22ND
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REFLECT THE POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION. THAT LETTER AND THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS IN IT WERE FULLY COORDINATED WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND SPECIFICALLY WITH MR. EIZENSTAT, WHOSE NAME IS MENTIONED IN THAT ARTICLE. DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE, AS IS NORMAL IN SUCH INSTANCES, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF INSURING THAT THERE IS A CONSISTENT POSITION AMONG ALL RELEVANT ELEMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE BOYCOTT ISSUE. WE ARE WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AS WELL AND WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WITH A VIEW TO WORKING OUT LEGISLATION WHICH WILL BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

NOW, A FINAL POINT WHICH WAS RAISED IN THE STORY WITH REGARD TO THE SO-CALLED NEGATIVE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN. SECRETARY VANCE STATED IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE THAT WE OPPOSE THE USE OF SUCH NAGATIVE CERTIFICATES AND THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION.

WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE TWO COMMITTEES I HAVE JUST MENTIONED HOW AND IN WHAT TIME FRAME THIS INTENT CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVELY CARRIED OUT.

SO, DOES THAT ADDRESS YOUR QUESTION?

Q. YES, WHICH LEADS TO ANOTHER:

SINCE HIS POSITION IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT, AND SINCE EVERYBODY ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE THE LETTER, WOULD YOU MAKE AVAILABLE TO US THAT LETTER THAT HE SENT, SO THAT WE

CAN JUDGE FOR OURSELVES?

A. NORMALLY, WE DON'T MAKE LETTERS FROM THE SECRETARY TO CONGRESS AVAILABLE. I WILL LOOK INTO THAT BUT I THINK THAT WOULD BE UP TO THE RECIPIENT COMMITTEES INVOLVED.
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BUT I WILL LOOK INTO IT.

Q. COULD I ASK ANOTHER QUESTION ON THAT?

A. YES, SINCE DON IS INTERESTED.

Q. THE SENATE REPORT SUGGESTED THAT A NUMBER OF MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT ANYTHING OTHER THAN NEGATIVE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN. IN OTHER WORDS, THAT THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT POSITIVE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

I DON'T HAVE THE ARTICLE, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME IT USED THE FIGURE OF SIX.

IS IT TRUE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE GIVEN US THAT INFORMATION RECENTLY? BECAUSE SECRETARY VANCE SUGGESTED IN HIS TESTIMONY THAT HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE-- POSITIVE CERTIFICATES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO MANY OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES.

A. I DON'T KNOW. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK INTO THAT FOR YOU.

Q. COULD YOU?

Q. THE NEW PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, MR. DESAI, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, YESTERDAY, SUGGESTED OR SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT HIS COUNTRY'S POLICY TOWARD NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS MAY BE UNDERGOING SOME CHANGE -- SAYING THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, AND IF IT WASN'T NECESSARY, IT SHOULD NOT BE DONE. INASMUCH AS THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD A GOOD DEAL TO SAY IN THE PAST ABOUT INDIA'S POLICY, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON WHAT HE HAS SAID?

A. WE HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST THE PRIME MINISTER'S
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COMMENTS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, ON THIS SUBJECT.

AS PRESIDENT CARTER STATED AT HIS MARCH 24TH PRESS CONFERENCE, THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO PROMOTE A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN THAT ELIMINATES BOTH NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS AND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

NOW THE PRESIDENT, OF COURSE EARLIER, AT THE U.N. ON MARCH 17 SAID THAT OUR ULTIMATE GOAL WAS TO END NUCLEAR TESTING.

THAT IS OUR REACTION TO THE STATEMENT BY INDIAN PRIME MINISTER DESAI.

Q. WERE YOU ENCOURAGED BY IT? YOU SAY YOU HAVE NOTED IT WITH INTEREST. ARE YOU TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS?

A. INITIAL REACTION OF "NOTING WITH INTEREST" IS ABOUT

WHAT WE WANT TO SAY. IT WAS, OF COURSE, SAID YESTERDAY-- SO WE WILL LEAVE IT AT THAT FOR THE MOMENT.

Q. AT THE SAME PRESS CONFERENCE, BY THE SAME INDIAN PRIME MINISTER, DESAI SAID THAT IF HE FOUND THAT THE INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY GOT IN THE WAY OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY, HE WOULD CONSIDER REVISING IT.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THE MEETING TODAY WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA?

A. NOT AS YET. HE JUST CAME UP AT 11:30, I BELIEVE, AND THEY ARE HAVING LUNCH AT THE MOMENT. I HAVE NO READ-OUT AS YET ON IT. PERHAPS WE WILL HAVE SOMETHING AFTER LUNCH ON IT.

Q. YES, HE INDICATED YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD HERE, THAT MR. VANCE WAS TAKING SOME SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN DEMILITARIZATION. DO YOU HAVE ANY DETAILS ON WHAT THOSE PROPOSALS ARE?

A. I DON'T .

OF COURSE THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSED THAT YESTERDAY, SAYING
THAT OUR LONG RANGE OBJECTIVE IS DEMILITARIZATION. BUT
THAT IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE THINGS THAT COULD BE
DISCUSSED USEFULLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFICS ON THAT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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